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Draft Minutes, 11/09/2010

D R A F T

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
NOVEMBER 9, 2010 MEETING

RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Martine Gougault, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Ann LeRoyer.

Facilitator: Jane Howard **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed. Dec. 8, 2010, location TBA.

- Martine presented her preliminary plan for the habitat garden to the Con Com last week. They were receptive but need more detailed information before giving approval, including plans for maintenance. Not sure about what form of permitting will be needed, probably NOI.
- DPW needs to get a vehicle to the bottom of the spillway structure occasionally; this requires a 12-foot space between the habitat garden and the constructed wetland.
- Martine's proposed plant list is estimated to cost about \$1200. The money available for plants is \$3000. Could some of it be used to improve the soil, which is terrible? A little money is left over from the dam reinforcement project; possibly this could also be used.
- The grass needs to be stripped (DPW has a machine which could do it) and topsoil/compost added. Grass can also be smothered with layers of newspaper, but this is fairly laborious; it could be done in tight spaces, e.g. between existing trees.
- The meadow needs to be mowed once a year, at the end of summer, with everything left in place for natural re-seeding. This would be a job for DPW. The planned winding path through it needs repeated mowing to keep it from getting overgrown; could this be done by volunteers, or would a mulch path be better?
- Boulders to be placed in the habitat garden or at the edge of the Res for seating: some on site may be suitable, and Jane found some at the DPW yard and asked that they be marked and saved. Jane is checking with Carol Kowalski about any such boulders at Symmes.
- Heavy preparatory work for DPW is estimated at about half a day if everything is prepared, e.g. boulders to be moved are marked. Local landscapers could be asked if they would be willing to donate some work, instead of burdening DPW. Could DPW supply any topsoil or compost? Wood chips for mulch paths would be available.
- Jane will check with Leslie Mayer about the role of Park & Rec in this project.
- A "Site of future wildlife habitat garden" sign could be put up this winter, asking for volunteers and giving contact information. The census survey could also be used to recruit volunteers.
- Next steps:
 - Digging up existing sod needs to come before placement of boulders; but bare soil should not be left exposed.
 - Martine will do a more detailed drawing, with measurements and placement of proposed plants. She is consulting Scott Lafleur of NEWFS and Cathy Garnett, and will start ordering plants.

- Jane will check just who is responsible for the habitat garden area – DPW? Park & Rec?
- For publicity we should get articles into the *Arlington Advocate*, one soon and one in spring; or the *Advocate* could be asked to interview Martine. Jane will talk to the editor. We could also try to get an exhibit in the Library, or have something in front of Town Hall.
- Martine will contact the Garden Club. Other possibilities: The “Grow Native” group just forming; Menotomy gardeners’ e-mail group. Letter to all gardening-related groups asking for volunteers.